

VZCZCXYZ0003

OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKI #0860 2661038
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 231038Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0107

UNCLAS KINSHASA 000860

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [EINV](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: PM MUZITO ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR

REF: A. KINSHASA 842

[1](#)B. KINSHASA 822

[1](#)C. KINSHASA 808

[1](#)D. KINSHASA 787

[1](#)1. (SBU) Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito called in the Ambassador on September 23 to discuss next steps in following up on the Secretary's August 10-11 visit to the DRC (see reftels). Muzito pleaded for USG assistance for the GDRC's administrative functions -- customs, banking, finance, public accounting -- areas in which the GDRC has no or poor functioning systems. He cited the Central Bank's lack of a system to accurately measure imports, exports, and remittances. Muzito said that this lack of administrative capacity was even more serious than the DRC's deficiencies in tangible areas, i.e., infrastructure, education, because the administrative systems determine the success or failure in these fields.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Muzito lamented what he characterized as U.S. absence from Africa's economic development. Chinese firms, Muzito continued, have filled this void. The DRC, however, would prefer to work with U.S. firms, as the U.S. has the skills and knowledge in areas, in which the DRC would like to accelerate development (agriculture). The DRC, Muzito pointed out, lacks a farming culture, and the U.S. is well-suited to help the DRC develop this sector. Reminiscing about Peace Corps in Zaire in the 1960s-80s, Muzito suggested the creation of some kind of "agricultural Peace Corps," whereby U.S. agricultural experts would come to the DRC to educate and train DRC farmers "in the fields." Muzito opined that such a program could indeed be used throughout Africa to improve food security and agricultural productivity.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Turning to the private sector, Muzito remarked that there was one U.S. investor, Tenke Fungurme Mining (TFM), that was well ensconced in the DRC, but the GDRC would like to attract other U.S. investors. Ambassador noted that he would soon be attending the Corporate Council on Africa's conference in Washington, so this would be an opportunity to discuss investment possibilities. The Ambassador added, however, that any U.S. firm interested in the DRC, would almost certainly inquire about TFM's on-going problems with the GDRC.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Muzito concluded by reminding the Ambassador that the Secretary had suggested to him the possibility of the DRC creating some kind of fund, into which companies would pay a percentage of their earnings earmarked for developing the DRC's infrastructure.

GARVELINK